Southern African **Transport Conference**

> Southern African solutions to public transport challenges

10 - 13 July 2017

13 JUNE 2017

MEDIA RELEASE

SATC a "big deal" for Transport Engineering students

The Southern African Transport Conference (SATC) bursary student, Nahungu Lionjanga, will present a

paper titled, "Time-Series Analysis of Accessibility in the City of Johannesburg," during the Urban

Transport session of the SATC on Tuesday, 11 July 2017.

Her paper explores the evolution of accessibility for poor, public-transport-captive households in the

City of Johannesburg, by calculating accessibility to jobs from a select group of locations biennially

from 2009 to 2013.

Lionjanga first heard about the SATC Conference in 2015. She subsequently entered the Student

Competition and won the bursary, which secured her an invite to present at the 2017 event.

The 24-year old from Gaborone, Botswana, is enrolled in the University of Pretoria and is busy with

her Masters degree in Traffic and Transportation Engineering. She assumes posts as an assistant

lecturer and a tutor for undergraduate modules when required and is a member of the Golden Key

Honour Society.

She has the prospect of pursuing her Master's degree, under the expert supervision of Professor

Christo Venter. Her Master's research will predominantly focus on the accessibility afforded by

various public transport modes to job opportunities for poor households and attempt to unpack the

effects of job accessibility on the social welfare of these households.

Her presentation at this year's Conference will describe the ease of use of public transport to access

spatially distributed opportunities, a topic she has personal experience with. "I understood this

difficulty when I resided in Olympus in Pretoria East and used public transport to get to the campus,"

she explains.

Lionjanga says she took an interest in the transport sector in her third year of University in 2013,

finding the topic highly relatable. "Transport has a strong social concern. I am socially conscious and

transport has a huge impact on the quality of people's lives," she says.

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Lionjanga believes the Conference is an "amazing" platform for students to get much-needed exposure. "The SATC allows students to realise the value of the profession they are studying towards.

It is a big deal."

Though nervous about presenting to a learned audience, she says she is also excited and honoured to

have the privilege of doing so. "It is a new challenge for me and I'm looking forward to it."

Her advice to other transport engineering students is to keep fighting the good fight. "Keep going when it gets tough. Understand that the purpose of what you're doing lies in serving people. It is a

service industry. Students should want to better people's lives." she says.

Now in its 36th year, SATC's conference theme is "Southern African Solutions to Public Transport

Challenges." Over 600 delegates are set to attend four days of plenary and breakaway seminars,

where peer-reviewed research papers covering infrastructure, urban and rural transport planning,

transport regulations, multimodal networks, safety, freight and logistics and many more will be

presented. Delegates can register at www.satc.org.za.

For sponsorship and exhibition opportunities at the event, contact Jacqui Oosthuyzen (Conference

Secretariat) on 012 804 3762 | 083 324-9622 | satc.conference@gmail.com.

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Editors Notes:

The Southern African Transport Conference takes place from Monday 10 July to Thursday 13 July at the CSIR International Convention Centre Pretoria, South Africa.

To find out more about SATC or to book, go to <u>www.satc.org.za</u>

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